

# Big Bend

## Ranger Programs

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



### February 21-27, 2016

#### Sunday, February 21

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Life at the Windmill”** The desert may seem to be an impossible place to live but a significant number of living things thrive in this extreme environment. Join Ranger B. Smith for an hour of discovery and exploration into the secret, and not so secret, stories of life at the windmill. Meet at Dugout Wells, six miles south of Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring water and a hat. ¼ mile. 1 hour.

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Rattlesnake Country”** With their sharp fangs and venomous bite, rattlesnakes are often feared by humans. Join Ranger C. Rinas to test your knowledge of these reptiles and learn how to safely enjoy the outdoors now that you’re in rattlesnake country. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Monday, February 22

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Desert Trivia”** What defines a desert? Considered desolate, uninhabitable lands by some, deserts can be places of spectacular diversity and stark beauty. Join Ranger M. Lavender and learn about the deserts of the US, and what makes the Chihuahuan Desert of Big Bend so special. Meet at Dugout Wells, 6 miles southeast of Panther Junction. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. ½ mile. 1 hour.

**7:30 PM Special NPS Centennial Program – “Moonwalk at Grapevine Hills”** Exploring Big Bend by moonlight is a special experience. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a walk to Balanced Rock. Meet at the trailhead along Grapevine Hills Road at 7:30 pm. A high-clearance vehicle is recommended; transportation, provided by Forever Resorts, is available for 10 people – sign up at Panther Junction Visitor Center. Bring a flashlight and wear good shoes for a moderate 2-mile round trip over uneven terrain. 1 ½ hours.

#### Tuesday, February 23

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Band on the Run”** Who were the nomadic Plains Indians that were amazing equestrians, savvy traders, but also marauders and thieves? Join Ranger K. Eckert to learn more about the Comanche and their way of life, with story telling that will engage the senses. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Wednesday, February 24

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Birds Do Crazy Things”** Observe Texas specialty birds and explore some of their unique behaviors. Stroll Rio Grande Village area (approximately 1 mile). Meet Volunteer S. Ewan at the Rio Grande Store parking lot. Please bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 hour.

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Soap from Yucca & More!”** If you have the knowledge just about everything you need can be obtained from plants. Join Ranger C. Rinas on this easy walk to learn about some of the traditional uses of plants. Bring water and sun protection. Meet at the Dugout Wells picnic area. 0.5 mile walk. 45 minutes.

#### Thursday, February 25

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Chasing Birds”** Birds, birds, everywhere! Join Volunteer P. Spruell on a bird walk exploring the Cottonwood Campground and possibly other areas on the west side of the park. Meet at the Cottonwood Campground entrance near the self-registration kiosk. Bring water and binoculars if you have them. 1 mile. 1 - 1 ½ hours.

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “WPA Poster Art of the National Park Service”** The WPA or Works Progress Administration was an ambitious program created as part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. Join special guest Doug Leen to learn the story of how poster art created by WPA artists for the National Park Service was lost, found, and restored for our enjoyment and for our legacy. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Friday, February 26

**9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Hot Springs, a History”** From prehistoric camp to healing resort, the hot springs on the Rio Grande have been a focal point for communities throughout history. The art and homes they left behind reveal their stories. Join Ranger J. Woerner to learn more about the history of the Hot Springs. Meet at the Hot Springs store (50 yards from the parking lot). Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. 1 mile. 1 hour.

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “WPA Poster Art of the National Park Service”** The WPA or Works Progress Administration was an ambitious program created as part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. Join special guest Doug Leen to learn the story of how poster art created by WPA artists for the National Park Service was lost, found, and restored for our enjoyment and our legacy. Meet at the Rio Grande Village Amphitheater. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a flashlight. 1 hour.

#### Saturday, February 27

**7:30 PM Evening Program – “Some Endangered Evening”** Is it dark where you live? Can you see as many stars as you once could? A dark night sky is an important factor in the lives of living creatures planet-wide, a way for humans to connect to days past, when artificial light was non-existent. Join Ranger B. Smith for an evening about evenings. A telescope will be set up to view a celestial object. Meet at the Chisos Basin Amphitheater. Bring a flashlight. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

**8:00 PM Evening Program – “Star-gazing with Binoculars and the Naked Eye”** You don’t need a telescope to locate and enjoy many of the natural wonders in the night skies over Big Bend National Park. Join Volunteer R. Wonite for a laser-guided tour of the more prominent stars, star clusters, and nebulae in the winter sky [weather permitting]. Meet at the pullout at Mile 15.3 on the road to Rio Grande Village. Wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars and/or a chair if you have them. 1 hour.